

REMARKS

Claims **113-120, 122-131, 135-138, 140-142, 144-158, 160-162, 164-172, 174-176** and **178-185** are pending in the application.

Claims **131, 138, 140-142, 149** and **172** stand rejected.

Claims **135-137, 144-148, 150-157, 174-176** and **178-185** stand objected to.

Claims **131, 135, 145-146, 154-155, 172, 175-176, 180-181** and **183** have been amended.

Claims **153** and **182** have been cancelled.

Applicant expresses appreciation for the indicated allowability of claims **113-120, 122-130, 158, 160-162** and **164-171**.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 135-137, 144-148, 150-157, 174-176 and 178-185 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to express appreciation for the indicated allowability of claims 135-137, 144-148, 150-157, 174-176 and 178-185 . In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 131 and 172 to include pertinent limitations of certain of the objected to claims, as well as those of corresponding intervening claims. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended independent claims 135-137, 144-148, 150-152, 154-157, 174-176, 178-181 and 183-185, as well as all claims depending thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 131, 138, 140-142, 149 and 172 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cleary et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,504,905 (“Cleary”). *See* Office Action, p. 2. In light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5094.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

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